

CLAIMS

- 1 1. An investment machine for public use and display, the investment machine
2 comprising:
 - 3 a. a housing;
 - 4 b. a display at least partially enclosed by the housing and viewable by an
5 investor adjacent to the housing;
 - 6 c. an investor identifier at least partially enclosed within the housing and
7 configured to receive a unique identifier from the investor;
 - 8 d. a money receiver at least partially enclosed within the housing and
9 configured to receive and identify money to be invested; and
 - 10 e. a processor at least partially enclosed within the housing and configured to
11 receive input from the investor identifier and to transmit a signal
12 representative of the input for use in investing at least a portion of the
13 money in association with the unique identifier received from the investor.
- 1 2. The investment machine of claim 1, further comprising an investment selector
2 interface configured to receive an investment preference from the investor and
3 transmit the investment preference to the processor.
- 1 3. The investment machine of claim 2, wherein the investment selection interface
2 includes at least one of a touch screen display, a touch sensitive surface, and a
3 button.
- 1 4. The investment machine of claim 2, wherein the investment selector is configured
2 to receive the investment preference from the investor at substantially the same
3 time as the money receiver receives and identifies the money to be invested.

1 5. The investment machine of claim 1, further comprising a network communication
2 connection coupled to the processor, the network communication connection
3 configured to couple the processor of the investment machine to a central
4 processor configured to store and coordinate investments made at each of a
5 plurality of investment machines.

1 6. The investment machine of claim 5, wherein the network communication
2 connection is further configured to couple the processor of the investment
3 machine to the central processor at substantially the same time as the investor
4 identifier receives the unique identifier from the investor.

1 7. The investment machine of claim 1, wherein the display is configured to display at
2 least one of investment information, advertising information, and account
3 information.

1 8. The investment machine of claim 7, wherein the advertising information is
2 selected on the basis of one or more of an investor's investment activities, an
3 investor's personal information, a location at which the investment machine is
4 located and an identity of a sponsor of the investment machine.

1 9. The investment machine of claim 7, wherein the advertising information is one or
2 more of an informational presentation, a tutorial, a news story, and other
3 information relating to a particular company or its product in which an investor
4 may desire to invest.

1 10. The investment machine of claim 1, wherein the money receiver is configured to
2 receive one or more of a coin, a bill, a magnetic strip card, a bar code, a smart card
3 and an alphanumeric code.

- 1 11. The investment machine of claim 1, further comprising an investment report
2 disburser associated with the processor and configured to disburse a report
3 associated with the investor's unique identifier.
- 1 12. A method of investing money, the method comprising:
2 associating a unique identifier with at least one person;
3 receiving money at an investment machine from the at least one person;
4 receiving current investment preferences through the investment machine from the at
5 least one person; and
6 investing at least a portion of the money on behalf of the at least one person in accordance
7 with the current investment preferences.
- 1 13. The method of claim 12, wherein receiving money at an investment machine
2 comprises receiving at least one of a coin, a bill, a magnetic strip card, a bar code,
3 a smart card and an alphanumeric code.
- 1 14. The method of claim 12, wherein receiving current investment preferences
2 through the investment machine comprises receiving at least one of an indication
3 from the investor that an investment option provided by the processor is preferred,
4 an investment option preselected by the investor is preferred, and an investment
5 option provided by the investor at the time of the indication is preferred.
- 1 15. A method of investing money using an investment machine, the method
2 comprising:
3 inputting a unique identifier into an investment machine;
4 placing money to be invested into the investment machine; and
5 selecting a current investment preference option at the investment machine.

- 1 16. The method of claim 15, further comprising receiving an investment report from
2 the investment machine.
- 1 17. The method of claim 15, wherein the money to be invested is in the form of at
2 least one of a coin, a bill, a magnetic strip card, a bar code, a smart card and an
3 alphanumeric code.
- 1 18. A method of promoting investment activities, the method comprising:
2 providing an investor with an investment code having associated therewith an investable
3 amount of money;
4 receiving the investment card or investment code at a location for investing;
5 associating a unique identifier with the investor; and
6 investing at least a portion of the investable amount of money on behalf of the investor in
7 association with the unique identifier.
- 1 19. The method of claim 18, wherein providing the investor with the investment code
2 comprises printing the investment code on a printed sales receipt in association
3 with a commercial transaction.
- 1 20. The method of claim 19, wherein the investment code is printed in the form of
2 one of a magnetic code, a bar code, an electronic code, and an alphanumeric code.
- 1 21. The method of claim 18, wherein the investment code is provided as an
2 investment card for insertion into an investment machine.
- 1 22. The method of claim 18, wherein the location for investing is one of an
2 investment machine and an Internet site.

- 1 23. The method of claim 18, wherein providing an investor with the investment code
2 comprises providing the investment code as a promotional item.
- 1 24. The method of claim 23, wherein the investment code is provided on the basis of
2 one of a reward for an investor activity and an encouragement for investors to use
3 an investment machine.
- 1 25. The method of claim 18, wherein providing an investor with the investment code
2 comprises selling the investment code as a gift item.
- 1 26. The method of claim 18, wherein providing an investor with the investment code
2 comprises offering the investment code in exchange for money paid in
3 conjunction with a commercial transaction.
- 1 27. The method of claim 18, wherein the unique identifier is associated with the
2 investment card or investment code prior to receiving the investment card or
3 investment code at the location for investing.
- 1 28. A method of investing comprising:
2 refraining from spending a sum of money; and
3 investing at least a portion of the sum of money through an investment machine.
- 1 29. The method of claim 28, wherein refraining from spending a sum of money is
2 done in association with a commercial business, and investing the portion of the
3 sum of money through an investment machine is done within the same
4 commercial business.
- 1 30. The method of claim 29, wherein the sum of money is unrelated to any other
2 commercial transaction of the commercial business.

1 31. The method of claim 28, wherein investing the portion of the sum of money
2 through an investment machine comprises:
3 entering a unique identifier into the investment machine;
4 depositing the sum of money into the investment machine; and
5 selecting a current investment preference through the investment machine.

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